

The Athenian Mercury.

Saturday, October 20. 1694.

Quest. 1. **W**AS not St. Gregory Patriarch of Armenia, and the first that introduced Christianity there?

Ans. An Armenian Author tells us, That the Gospel was carried into Armenia by the Apostles, St. Bartholomew and St. Thaddæus, who afterwards suffer'd Martyrdom there. This is confirmed by Galani, in a short List he gives of all the Kings of Armenia, who lived from the time of our Saviour, until St. Gregory, who, he says, was indeed the first Patriarch of that place, but that he was not Born a Christian, yet accidentally Instructed in that Religion; after this manner one Chosroes, Prince of Armenia, was Assassinated by St. Gregory's Father, who was a little while after Punished for his Crime, and all his Family Massacred, except two Children, who escap'd, whereof one was St. Gregory, whom a Christian Woman carried to Cæsarea in Capadocia, and there Educated in the Christian Religion; as soon as he was something advanc'd in years, he return'd into Armenia, where he was made Patriarch two hundred and sixty six years after the Death of St. Bartholomew and St. Thaddæus.

Quest. 2. I have had the misfortune to be very Extravagant and Wicked, and amongst other sins, to be guilty of Deluding a married Woman. I am (I hope) through the great goodness of God, become truly sorrowful for it. I am very desirous to Receive the Holy Communion, but dare not. Query, may I do it, and be a worthy Communicant, without first Reconciling the Person I have wrong'd to me, which I am ready, and very desirous to procure, but cannot find out any means to obtain it, without exposing the Woman to her Husband, and by that occasion, make a difference between them, which instead of extenuating, may add to the Enormity.

Ans. Since the Husband knows nothing of the Injury, your Discovering it to him by begging his Pardon, would but rather encrease it; for it would give him continual disquiets, and the Trespas being of such a Nature as you can never repair, or make any satisfaction for, 'tis much better concealed then discovered. 'Twere reasonable to consider this, if the Woman shou'd not be concern'd in the ill effects on't, but since she is, you are obliged to be silent in your repentance, and all you ought to do, is to evidence the sincerity of it, by a thorough reformation, and likewise endeavour to convince her you have seduced of her Crime.

Quest. 3. A Friend of mine, who is desirous of Advancing himself in the World, and one whose employment is not very agreeable to his Merit, has often acquainted me with his intent of quitting his present business, and to find out some one or other that may suit better with him; he is about 25 years Old, one that has had the Advantage of a very good Education, not given to any Vice that I know of, and one of Universal Probity, very fit and capable of almost any business; he understands the Latin Tongue very well, with its Idioms and peculiar Graces, which he has sometimes expressed in Letters, &c. In the Mathematicks no less skill'd, viz. In Arithmetick, not only the Vulgar, but also Decimal, with Algebra; in the Theory of Astronomy and Navigation, Surveying, &c. And to promote his Advancement, his Friends will not be wanting to furnish him with any Money upon occasion. Now, Gentlemen, the Question is, what way do you think most probable for one so qualified to pitch upon; Your speedy Answer and Directions in this case will be very obliging. He's resolved not to ask without your Advice?

Ans. He'll do well to keep in his Business, till he has at least a great probability of doing better; the best way he can take, now he's at that Age, is to get a good

place, which 'tis likely may be suitable enough, since he either has, or soon may have most of the Qualities that are requisite; but we would not Advise him to leave a certain Maintenance for any thing that should be less than Life, how plausible so ever it may appear, and with the Interest of his Friends, that won't be found so difficult to be got. 'Tis true, there's many ways for an ingenious Man that has Money, to take, in order to his Advancement, but none that is of less hazard than this.

Quest. 4. Do you think there was ever any such Man as Hercules, or was his story a pure invention of the Poets, without any other reason for it, except their own fancy? If 'twere wholly groundless, I desire your Reasons to prove it so; but if there were any thing of Truth in it, you will very highly oblige some of your expecting Friends, if you'll be pleased to give us as full an Account of it as you can.

Ans. To be of an obliging Temper is a good thing, and we have made some pretensions to it a great while, and since a matter of this Nature may be as likely to direct and benefit our loving Querists, as many of our late Learned and Wise Discussions, we shall very willingly gratify you, with the most probable Account we have. 'Twould be impossible to give a Reason for all the Circumstances that the Greeks have related about it, because they have added many things to the History, purely to Embelish, and render it more agreeable. The Phenicians having filled almost all the sides of the Mediterranean with their Colonies, made Voyages to every Part; and as their Country Men always were well pleased with the News of strange Countries, so they omitted not to relate at their return, whatsoever they had seen in their Voyages. And 'tis not improbable but they might add a little touch of Fancy to their Narrations, and tell things that in themselves were ordinary enough, after a very wonderful and surprizing manner. 'Tis also very likely that those that heard 'em might, in their turn assist a little with their imaginations, it being very Natural for Men to form great Ideas of things that are remote from them, and where they did not well understand their relations, they have made them say things they never thought. Thus it may be, all those things have contributed to the obscuring of the History of their Voyages, which has made some of those events appear to us as Monstrous Fables, which had nothing surprizing in them, as is very probable in this story of Hercules. In the time that Deborah and Barac were Judges of Israel, a Phenician Merchant, named Alcides, who was born in Boetia (and who, 'tis supposed, was our very Hercules) undertook great Voyages, sometimes alone, and sometimes in company; some upon his own account, and others by Commission. He Establish'd many Colonies; and as Greece was not yet well peopled, so in many places the new Inhabitants were oblig'd to take a great deal of pains to defend themselves, as well from wild Beasts, as the injuries of the Air. In that time there were many young Men that Kept and Fed the Tamer Beasts, that had successfully accustom'd themselves to the Fighting with Bears and Lions. This Alcides had at 18 years of Age, kill'd a Lion in a Mountain of Boetia, who had made a great Ravage in the Theban Flocks. Upon which account the King of that place gave in Marriage to him, or to his Men, some Daughters that he had; And Alcides used afterwards to wear the skin of the Lion he had slain for a cloak. He likewise Killed another Lion in the Forest of Nemea, which by the order of the King of Mycena, he had chased into some Park, where he continued a long time, and there Establish'd the powerful Colony of the Heraclidas, which signified Merchants. This Colony delivered the Country

try from many Venomous Animals that incommoded it, and made themselves very famous by the Hunting of divers Beasts, as the wild Boars and Savage Bulls of the Mountains. But 'twas too difficult for this new Colony to over-run the Neighbouring Country, sometimes for the Chase, and sometimes for Pasture, without raising themselves Enemies. Either in Hunting or Feeding their Flocks near a Mountain in Arcadia, they quarrell'd with some of the Rich People about the greater Cattle, and although they Fought on Horseback, and the Haracides had only Foot, yet either through their own Address or Advantage of the Hills, they got the better, and destroy'd their Enemies. They had another quarrel also with certain Shepherds, who liv'd at the upper parts of Peloponnesus, on whom they set their Dogs, that they kept their Flocks with, which was their usual custom, when any attacked 'em. At the same time they set at liberty some persons of Attica that those Shepherds had taken Prisoners.

After this Alcides left his Colony in Peloponnesus, and return'd to Thebes, but departing upon some business in his Travels, Euryma, Prince of Ecalia, promised to give his Daughter to him that best drew the Bow; Alcides presented himself, and made appear that he was the most expert in that Exercise; but the King kept not his word, under pretence that the Phenecians had been accusom'd to sacrifice their own Children: Yet Iphitus, the King's Son, became a friend to Alcides, whom afterwards he kill'd in a Quarrel, for which Murder he fled to Laconia, where the Prince of the place Purified him according to the manner of that time, by plunging him into a River. But falling sick, he thought the Gods were Angry with him for the Murder, and therefore resolv'd to consult a famous Priest that liv'd at Delphos, Master of the place; tho afterwards, being reconcil'd to the Priest, he told Alcides, that to Cure his Infirmary, he must quit Greece, and make satisfaction to Euryma. This Advice he intended to follow; but being arriv'd to the Coasts of Asia, he was made a Slave by some Men of Omphales, Queen of Lydia, where he continued 3 years. In which time he made some famous Voyages, and in one of them, at last discovered some Phenician Vessels, whom he Joyn'd, and upon his making himself known to them, they deliver'd him from his Captivity. He went not very far, but stopt in Mysia, where he Established a Colony; But the Neighbourhood and Riches of Phrygia, rais'd an Envy in the Phenicians that were in Mysia, and put them in mind of seizing some Advantagious Port near Troy, and Establish themselves there; To which end they Equip'd a little Fleet of 18 Vessels, that they themselves had Built, and went under the Conduct of Alcides; but the Repulse of the Enemy, and some Divisions amongst themselves, made 'em soon leave the place. Alcides returning from thence into Greece, was a-new Engaged in Wars to defend his Colony at Peloponnesus; whereof the particulars may be seen in the 2, l. 7. c. of Apollodorus. He a little after dyed upon a Mountain of Thessaly, called Eta, where his Body was Barnt, as then the custom of that Country was; and because of his mighty Actions, he was placed amongst the Number of the Gods.

And altho all these things were not done by himself only, yet because he was the Chief, he had the Honour of all Enterprises. Besides the Name of Alcides, or Alceus, that he had from his infancy, he was called Herakles, which the Greeks made ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΣ, Heracles, and the Latins, Hercules. 'Tis a Phenician word, which signifies Merchant: and indeed Alcides did nothing else but establish Phenician Colonies, or make the Negotiations of those more flourishing chat drew their Original from Phenicia.

The Undertaker of this Paper having bought a parcel of Scarce English Books, any Gentleman that will, may have liberty to pick and chuse out of them what he pleases, till next Saturday; after which time, they'll be otherwise disposed of. — This is further to give Notice, That if any Ministers, Widow, or other person, have any Library or Parcel of Books to sell, if they will send a Catalogue of them, or notice where they are to John Dunton, who is

remov'd from the Poultry, to the Raven in Jewen-street, they shall have ready Money for them to the full of what they are worth. — Here is also to be Sold *Intira Sess of Athenian Gazetts* (each Set Resolving all the most nice and curious Questions propos'd by the Ingenious of either Sex for the last 5 years) or single Mercuries.

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